

TESTIMONY OF
THE UNITED ILLUMINATING COMPANY

Before the Energy and Technology Committee

Re:

**RAISED BILL 1101 – AN ACT CONCERNING THE COORDINATION OF LOW-INCOME
ENERGY PROGRAMS**

Legislative Office Building

March 10, 2009

Senator Fonfara, Representative Nardello, and members of the Energy and Technology Committee: My name is Laura González and I am the Director of Collections for The United Illuminating Company ("UI"). I am here today to express UI's comments regarding **RAISED BILL 1101– An Act Concerning the Coordination of Low-Income Energy Programs**

UI supports a discounted rate for customers who meet the income levels that qualify households for assistance from state or government agencies.

UI would suggest that this new discount rate not be in addition to other customer funded assistance programs. The new lifeline rate intent should be to provide a utility bill that eligible customers are able to afford. The intent should not be to provide free utility service to the same customers. Therefore the new discounted rate should replace existing matching payment programs, both UI's Mapp Program and the state mandated Forgiveness Program.

UI would further suggest that the final language assures that all costs associated with the discount rate would be recoverable through the Systems Benefit Charge. These costs would include:

- Implementation costs
- Administrative costs
- Outreach costs
- Rate Reduction

Lastly, UI would suggest that customers who qualify for this rate must also be required to participate in conservation programs offered by electric distribution companies.

UI looks forward to participating in a DPUC proceeding that will evaluate the benefits and costs of a rate for low-income households

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today.